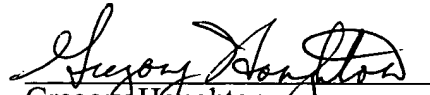




The undersigned certifies that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as prepaid first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents, Mail Stop: AF, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 29, 2003.

  
Gregory Houghton

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of  
Ijiri, Y. et al.

Serial No. 09/705,351

Filed: November 3, 2000

For: VERTICAL HEAT  
EXCHANGER  
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Group Art Unit: 3753  
Examiner: Atkinson, Christopher Mark

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

This response is submitted pursuant to the Advisory Action mailed December 12, 2003. Claims 1, 5, 9-12, and 17 are pending in the application. A petition for one month's extension of time is herewith submitted. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections in view of the following proposed amendments and remarks.